Derailment of trains

2175. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the passenger trains and goods trains have got derailed during the last four months as well as Rajdhani Express escaped from accident thrice;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the details of preventive measures taken for the safety of passengers in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There have been derailments of 28* passenger trains and 21* goods trains during the period from April, 2005 to July, 2005. The cause-wise details of these 49 derailments have been as under:—

Cause	Number of derailments from April, 2005 to July, 2005
Failure of Railway Staff	39
Failure of other than Railway Staff	2
Sabotage	2
Incidental	4
Not established	1
Under investigation	1
TOTAL	49*

(* Provisional figures)

No incident of Rajdhani Express train escaping accident during the above period has been reported. However, there has been one unusual incident on 23.05.2005, when a gunny bag containing iron pieces was found on track between Sasaram and Karwandiya stations of Mughalsarai Division on East Central Railway, in face of 2440 New Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani Express which resulted into failure of the train engine causing detention to the train for about three hours in the block section.

(c) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and adoption of new measures to improve safety is a continuous process. The measures

being taken by Indian Railways to minimize incidence of accidents include adoption of suitable modern technology for interlocking and signalling system, upgradation of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of over-aged assets, upgradation of training aids like simulators, checks on observance of safety precautions and provision of Anti Collision Device.

Shortage of drivers and engines

2176. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the goal of transporting 700 million tonnes of cargo a year by the Railways, has run into rough weather owing to acute shortage of drivers and engines;

(b) if so, the estimated requirement, availability and shortage of drivers and railway engines; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to make good the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur broad gauge line

2177. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for construction of Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new broad gauge railway line;

(b) whether Government are aware that this line is very vital for development of Bastar region inhabited by tribals; and

(c) if so, how long it would take to complete the project and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new line project is to be